Bill Wynne is recommending that we reduce the number of teaching days in the academic calendar from the current 75 to 73 beginning with the next academic year, AY 11/12. Doing so requires a change by the Kansas Board of Regents. A Senate endorsement will strengthen the presentation to the Board.

The change offers the following advantages:

1) The fall semester would begin on a Monday as opposed to a Thursday without altering the final exam schedule that runs for a week, Monday-Friday. This would also allow the fall pre-session classes to begin a week after summer classes end, rather than the next business day. Starting classes on a Thursday has always been awkward.

2) The spring semester would finish in time for the final exam schedule to run Monday-Friday and conclude before commencement. Currently, there are final exams after commencement, which has always been a frustration for both faculty and students.

3) The earlier spring conclusion would benefit the Office of Residential Life by enabling them to clear out the dorms on the Sunday following commencement as opposed to a mid-week clear-out necessitated by the current schedule. Evidently this will yield significant financial benefits.